GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:559
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
INTER-REGIONAL EXPORT OF POWER
NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has drawn up a plan to double the inter-regional export of power;

(b) if so, whether the plans of CEA to double power exports would benefit some states;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other steps the government propose to take to meet power crisis throughout the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 559 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 30.08.2001 REGARDING INTER REGIONAL EXPORT OF POWER.

(a) to (c) : Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has drawn up a perspective National Plan for additional generation capacity of 1,00,000 MW and the corresponding transmission plan to form a National Power Grid by 2011-12.The present inter-regional transmission capacity is about 4800 MW. For further strengthening of the National Grid, high capacity long HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with large projects.

The following inter-regional links are under implementation for transfer of power from Eastern Region to Northern, Westernand Southern Regions :

From Eastern Region to Northern Region :

(i) HVDC Back to Back station at Sasaram along with Biharshariff- Sasaram-Allahabad 400 KV D/C line.The line has been charged upto Sarnath. The entire project is expected to be completed by December, 2002.

From Eastern Region to Western Region:

(i) 400 KV D/c Rourkela-Raipur transmission line. The project is expected to be completed by October, 2002.

From Eastern Region to Southern Region:

(i) Talcher-Kolar HVDC bi-pole Link having converter station at Talcher and Kolar.The project is expected to be completed by June, 2003.

The following inter-regional links have been/are being planned by POWERGRID for transfer of power from Eastern Region to Northern Region and Southern Region :

From Eastern Region to Northern Region :

(i) 400 KV D/C Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur Transmission line together with Tala HEP Transmission System.

(ii) 400 KV D/C line from Sasaram to Sarnath along with back up transmission between Biharshariff and Sasaram.

(iii) 765 KV Transmission System as part of evacuation system from proposed Kahalgaon Extn. (2 x 660 MW) and Barh (3 x 660 MW) Projects.

From Eastern Region to Southern Region :

(i) Second 500 MW HVDC module at Gazuwaka together with system strengthening works in Eastern Region and Southern Region.

The total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 23,400 MW by 2006-07.In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generation resources.This would involve development of a high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines inter-connecting Eastern, Western and Northern Regions.Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW by the year 2012.

(d) : The Government has taken a pro active role to bring about reforms in the power sector and some of the major initiatives include the following :

1. The Government enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act in 1998 to pave the way for creation of Regulatory Commissions both at the Centre and the States in order to rationalize electricity tariff, and introduce competition and efficiency in the electricity sector.

2. The Ministry of Power has signed Memoranda of Understanding with the States of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Kerala and Orissa for initiating power sector reforms facilitating special assistance to them.

3. In the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference held on 3rd March 2001, some of the major resolutions which were adopted include the following:

? Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.

? Full metering of all consumers has been targeted for completion by December 2001. Special efforts would be made to complete the programme.

? Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through creating profit centres with full accountability, handing over of local distribution to local bodies, privatisation of distribution etc.

? Efforts by States at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focused towards the distribution sector.

? Current operations on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

? State Electricity Regulatory Commissions may be made functional in the next six months and tariff filings made. Tariff orders issued by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions need to be implemented fully unless stayed or set aside by Court order.

? Subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Government`s capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.

? The Centre and the States need to take suitable decisions regarding increase in outlays for the 10th Plan. Priority should be given for investments at those locations which produce the cheapest power specially for hydro projects and pit head thermal generation. CEA has estimated the requirement for an additional 100,000 MW of generating capacity by 2012.

? The evolution of a National Grid for inter-regional transfer of power needs to be taken up on priority.

The energy shortage in the country during 2000-2001 was 7.8% while the peak shortage was 13% . To improve availability of power and generation capacity and to make optimal use of the available power resources in the country, the following measures have been taken:

1. Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.

2. Promotion of measures for demand side management.

3. Renovation and modernisation of old generation units.

4. Promotion of inter state and inter regional power transfers.

5. Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power

stations in the regional power system.

6. Augmentation of transmission/transformation capacity in the power system and installation of shunt capacitors to improve the voltage.